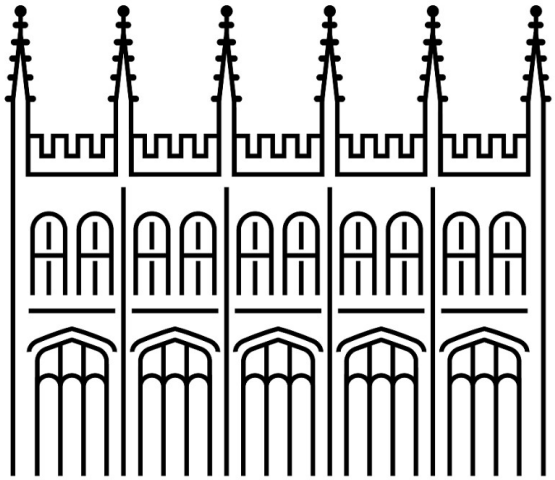

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Bodleian Library MS. Arch. Selden. A. 1

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Summary

Title

'Codex Mendoza', etc.

Language

Spanish

Nahuatl languages

Latin

English

Date Statement

1541–1650

Author

Smith, Thomas, 1513-1577

Former Owner

Thevet, André, 1516-1592

Selden, John, 1584-1654

Purchas, Samuel, -approximately 1658

Purchas, Samuel, 1577?-1626

Hakluyt, Richard, 1552?-1616

Description

Composite: Part A, ff. i-ii, 1-72; Part B, ff. 73-84.

Extent: i + ii + i + 81 + i + 10 + iii, foliated i-ii, 1-85.

Contents: 'Codex Mendoza', Mexican pictorial manuscript (ff. i-ii, 1-72), including: a pictorial history of the Aztec empire from 1325-1521 (ff. 1r-17r or 18r); an illustrated catalogue of the annual tribute paid by the towns of the empire to the last emperor, Montezuma II (ff. 17v or 18v-54v); an illustrated account of Aztec life-cycles, male and female, from birth to death (ff. 56v-71v). Tables of the comparative value of Roman, Greek, English and French money (ff. 73-84).

Binding: Plain vellum-covered boards, either London, c. 1655-1659, or Oxford, c. 1655-1665 (Barker-Benfield, 2000, pp. 99-102).

Provenance

The two parts of the manuscript were still separate after John Selden’s death and are listed separately in the handwritten catalogue (c. 1655) of his books and manuscripts, MS. Selden Supra 111 (Barker-Benfield, 2000, p. 100). Acquired by the Bodleian from Selden’s executors at some point between 1655 and 1659 (Barker-Benfield, 2000, pp. 101-2).

Record Origin

Summary description by Matthew Holford, based on published descriptions, especially The Codex Mendoza, ed. F. F. Berdan and P. R. Anawalt, 4 vols. (1992), and Barker-Benfield 1985-1999 and 2000. Previously described in the Summary Catalogue.

Collection

Early Modern Manuscripts and Archives

Mesoamerican Manuscripts

Catalogue Identifier

Summary Catalogue 3134

Holding Institution

Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford